



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

October 14, 2010

Contact: Trevor Ford
O (703) 492-1776 ext. 222
C (202) 503-6295

New Mexico Voters Want Direct Say in Government

(ALBUQUERQUE, NM) – Today, Citizens in Charge Foundation, a national voter rights group focused on the ballot initiative and referendum process and the Rio Grande Foundation, a research institute dedicated to increasing liberty and prosperity in New Mexico, released the results of an opinion poll conducted in the state on voter support for initiative & referendum rights. With 61% supporting and only 14% opposing, it is clear that the overwhelming majority of New Mexico voters want full statewide initiative & referendum rights.

“New Mexico is the only western state besides Hawaii that does not allow its citizens to propose and vote on laws,” said Rio Grande Foundation President Paul Gessing. “If given the initiative, New Mexicans could have passed legislation like Colorado’s Taxpayers’ Bill of Rights which, if in force at the time, would have prevented the run-up in spending a few years ago that has led to inevitable, painful cuts in today’s struggling economy.”

Citizens in Charge Foundation and Citizens in Charge jointly commissioned *Pulse Opinion Research* to conduct this poll in each of the 50 states between May 26 and July 19 of this year to determine public support for initiative and referendum. Respondents in each state were asked this question:

“In 26 states, citizens can sign a petition to put laws or constitutional amendments on the ballot to be decided by the voters at a statewide election. This process is known as initiative and referendum. Would you favor or oppose the initiative and referendum process in your state?”

The results were clear in New Mexico, and across the country. **In every single state, Americans supported the initiative and referendum process by better than two-to-one margins.**

“Though New Mexico does have a people’s veto, the process is so limited and cumbersome that it has only been used twice in the last hundred years,” said Citizens in Charge Foundation President Paul Jacob. “But the results of this poll show that voters across all demographics, income levels and political affiliations very much want a direct say in their government through ballot initiatives.”

For more information from the Rio Grande Foundation contact: Paul Gessing at 505-264-6090.

ABOUT CITIZENS IN CHARGE FOUNDATION:

Citizens in Charge Foundation is the only national transpartisan voter rights group dedicated to protecting and expanding the ballot initiative and referendum process. We believe good government starts with the voter. For more information visit us at www.CitizensInChargeFoundation.org.

ABOUT the RIO GRANDE FOUNDATION:

The Rio Grande Foundation is a research institute dedicated to increasing liberty and prosperity for all of New Mexico's citizens. We do this by informing New Mexicans of the importance of individual freedom, limited government, and economic opportunity. The Foundation’s website is:

www.riograndefoundation.org.